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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)**  
**OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## ***Bolivia – Floods***

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

March 2, 2007

### **BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Heavy rains beginning in December 2006 have caused major rivers to overflow in Bolivia, affecting communities in eight of the country's nine departments. Flooding has resulted in landslides and obstructed roads, isolating some rural communities. Floodwaters have destroyed crops, killed livestock, led to the deaths of 34 people, displaced at least 25,000 people, and affected nearly 360,000 people.
- On January 22, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg declared a disaster and requested USAID/OFDA relief assistance due to the effects of the flooding. In response, USAID has provided assistance valued at \$996,132 for affected populations. USAID staff have been on the ground in the flood-affected Santa Cruz and Beni departments conducting assessments to determine humanitarian needs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	358,560	GOB <sup>1</sup> – February 28, 2007
Deaths	34	OCHA <sup>2</sup> – February 22, 2007
Internally Displaced Persons	25,000	OCHA – February 28, 2007

### **FY 2007 USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bolivia .....	<b>\$782,492</b>
USAID/LAC <sup>3</sup> Assistance to Bolivia .....	<b>\$213,640</b>
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bolivia .....	<b>\$996,132</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- Heavy rains and resulting widespread flooding have affected eight of Bolivia's nine departments. In the most affected departments of Beni and Santa Cruz, the humanitarian situation remains critical, according to OCHA. The GOB reports that flooding has affected approximately 360,000 people throughout the country. The floods have caused an estimated \$250 million in damage to date.
- According to OCHA, preliminary estimates indicate that the floodwaters have killed 11,000 cattle. Furthermore, the GOB estimates that flooding has destroyed 209,000 hectares of crops.
- The U.S. Government, other donors, and numerous humanitarian organizations are assisting affected populations.

#### *Shelter*

- At present, approximately 25,000 people are displaced to temporary shelters. According to the GOB Civil Defense, 32 shelters are located in Santa Cruz Department, and 44 shelters are housing displaced persons in Beni Department. In addition, two shelters in Cochabamba Department are providing temporary shelter for displaced persons.
- In Trinidad, Beni Department, affected populations are using schools as temporary shelters. The GOB plans to move families currently in schools to temporary camps in order for schools to open, according to OCHA.
- In response to the need for emergency shelter, to date USAID/OFDA has provided 270 rolls of plastic tarpaulin for individuals displaced by flooding.

#### *Health*

- Humanitarian agencies are concerned over the potential for disease as a result of flooding. Health authorities report that water- and sanitation-related diseases including gastrointestinal infections are increasing. Humanitarian organizations are implementing vector control measures to contain the spread of illness. USAID representatives in Bolivia are assessing conditions to determine whether additional health assistance is warranted.

#### *Humanitarian Coordination*

- The U.N. Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) Coordinator and the U.N. Disaster and Assessment Coordination (UNDAC) team are holding daily meetings to update humanitarian databases, according to OCHA.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Bolivia

<sup>2</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

<sup>3</sup> USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

- UNETT, Centros Operativos de Emergencia (COEs), and the UNDAC team are collecting humanitarian information provided by departmental COEs, according to OCHA. In Santa Cruz, the GOB Civil Defense is sharing a consolidated report of donations.

### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On January 22, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, USAID has provided a total of \$996,132 to assist affected populations. USAID staff have been on the ground in the flood-affected Santa Cruz and Beni departments conducting assessments to determine humanitarian needs.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$100,000 to the American Red Cross in response to the International Federation of the Red Cross' emergency appeal for the Bolivia floods for the purchase and distribution of relief supplies.
- On February 13, USAID/OFDA chartered an airlift of relief supplies to Santa Cruz Department, for a total value of \$177,550, including transport. The airlift included 2,000 ten-liter water containers, 1,000 hygiene kits, and 170 rolls of plastic tarpaulin for emergency shelter. USAID/OFDA chartered an additional airlift of relief supplies, valued at \$169,942 including transport, scheduled to arrive in Trinidad, Beni Department on March 2. The airlift includes 1,000 ten-liter water containers, 4,032 hygiene kits, and 100 rolls of plastic tarpaulin.
- Through existing programs, USAID/Bolivia has provided \$213,640 in emergency relief supplies including hygiene kits, water containers, blankets, mattresses, and kitchen cooking kits; temporary shelters; and health and medical supplies and services. USAID/Bolivia has also supported emergency road repairs.

### USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ADRA	Emergency Relief Supplies <sup>2</sup>	Santa Cruz Department	\$65,000
American Red Cross	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$100,000
USAID/Bolivia	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$100,000
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Santa Cruz Department	\$177,550
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Beni Department	\$169,942
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$170,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$782,492</b>
<b>USAID/LAC ASSISTANCE</b>			
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies; Emergency Shelter; Health; and Emergency Repairs for Roads	Affected Areas	\$213,640
<b>TOTAL USAID/LAC</b>			<b>\$213,640</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA IN FY 2007</b>			<b>\$996,132</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 2, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Includes transport.

### PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Bolivia may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)